

Review of: "Food and Feeding of Atlantic Mudskipper *Periophthalmus Barbarus* in Ogbo-Okolo Mangrove Forest of Santa Barbara River, Bayelsa State Niger Delta, Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The MS of [Ayibatonyo Markson Nathaniel et al.](#) is interesting and deals with a very essential topic: the trophic ecology of a fascinating species from a very ecologically valuable habitat, the *P. barbatus* from the Mangrove forest.

Despite this, there are too many methodological issues that need to be fixed before the paper could be evaluated for publication.

- Concerning the food items, preys should be identified to the lowest taxonomical level possible. It is wrong to indicate crustacean appendages and similar. They should indicate to what taxa these appendages and remains belong (e.g., decapoda, peracarida) trying to arrive at the lowest taxonomical level (e.g., caridea, amphipoda);
- They should indicate all the prey items under a taxon. It is wrong to indicate carapace, crustacean gills, crustacean appendages, divided. They should indicate only one taxon (trying always to arrive at the lowest taxonomical level) to avoid a mis-evaluation of the relevance of a prey item for the diet and trophic ecology of the studied species;
- Concerning the evaluated indexes, I strongly suggest authors to study other valuable papers to add to the MS other indexes, such as: IRI, %F, %N, %IRI. Here you find some references: <https://doi.org/10.3390/fishes7040167> , <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.8634> , <https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse9090967>
- **Concerning the introduction section, authors should write more about the trophic ecology and diet of the studied species, adding references regarding it, if present. I strongly suggest reducing the part dealing with the morphology of the studied species**

I can't revise the other sections of the MS if authors don't fix all the methodological problems.

I suggest authors to strongly revise all the methodology and results, according to the suggestions and the references reported above.